***Identity and Belonging***

**Who am I? Outer Identity**

That’s a top question. Your identity is developed as you grow up relating to particular people

in particular places. You identify as part of your family because that is what you have learned to become.

You identify as Australian because you are a citizen

When you start at school you identify as a student.

If you join a sports team you take on “team member” as part of your identity.

**Complete this mind map to answer it about yourself. (type directly into the shapes)**

**Identity Map**

Now look at what you’ve written. We can call this your *identity* or *your sense of who you are.*

**These are some identity terms:**

girl / boy

member of ……..family

male./ female

son / daughter of …

brother / sister of…

grand son / daughter of

………………’s friend

only child

student at …

niece / nephew of…

cousin of …

athlete

Australian

sailor

working class

immigrant from …

musician

Christian / Buddhist / Muslim

Aboriginal person from..

farmers’ child

Chinese

scout or guide

adopted child

Add anything that you need to make the mind map of your identity clear.

Remember that this is about how you see yourself.

**Who am I? Outer Identity Symbols**

Our society recognises a person’s identity in a number of official ways. For example:

birth certificate; passport; voter registration

(Type directly into the spaces provided)

1. Which other ones can you think of?
2. Which ones do you have?

**Developing identity**

**What identity do you think this person (in the following picture) might have ‘owned’ at these stages of his life?**

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Write them down here:

How has your identity changed over the years? (Forget your changing hair colour or your

piercings)

Write down how you remember yourself at an earlier stage in your life? This is not so easy to do.

Is that still part of the way you see yourself?

**Who Am I? Inner Identity**

This activity is designed to raise awareness of how we perceive ourselves and others.

Your inner identity is more about the way you feel, how you act and what you think and say.

This stuff is a lot more subtle and hard to identify. It’s about:

· personality

· cultural background

· feelings and thoughts about ourselves and others

· emotional responses to life

· how we respond and deal with stresses and challenges

· how we communicate

· how we respond and deal with others in our lives

· how connected we feel to other people

· our friends and family

· our relationships

**If you were to do an identity map again it would look a whole lot different.**

**Why don’t you try it?**

**Identity Map (**Refer to **some** inner identity terms on next page)

These are **some** inner identity terms:

girl/ boy

out-going

energetic

affectionate

distant and cool

quick to anger

shy of large groups

a lone-wolf

lacking in natural talent

unhappy a good deal

reliable

a gossip

I swear a lot

I can talk to all people

very verbal

quiet

noisy

athletic and physical

friendly

approachable

simple in my thinking

not confident

hard working

positive about myself

trustworthy

can’t keep a secret

I like animals more than

people

artistic

logical

traditional

avant guard

confident

emotional

talented

short of energy

happy most of the time

a good friend

loyal

I hit people sometimes

I love animals

I prefer computer games

**Identitiy, as You Get older**

As your sexuality is developing, it is quite common to be confused about your

identity. You might be bothered by the terms gay, lesbian, heterosexual and bisexual

and worry that you don’t seem to fit neatly into any of those gender groupings.

The good news is that people don’t fit neatly into any categories of identity. You are

unique in a world of diverse billions of people. That’s OK. In extreme cases, even identifying as **human** can be a problem. There have been reports of abandoned children brought up in the care of animals. Can you imagine the confused identity of those individuals?

**John Ssabunnya**

BBC's Sue Nelson*:"John was fed and sheltered by monkeys"*

*“John Ssabunnya, aged 14, was abandoned as a two -year-old in the dense jungle of*

*Uganda to what seemed certain death…. But a colony of African Green monkeys came across him and adopted the real-life Tarzan as one of their own. He learnt their mannerisms, became adept at climbing trees and lived on a diet of fruit, nuts and berries for the next three years….*

*In 1991 a tribeswoman saw him scavenging for food with the chimps and reported*

*it… When villagers first found the boy and attempted to take him away, the terrified*

*youngster, hurled sticks at them and hid up a tree. His monkey guardians put up a ferocious fight to prevent the tribesmen taking him away, believing they were protecting one of their own.*

*John was abandoned when his mother was murdered in 1988. The naked boy was caught and taken to the Kamuzinda Christian Orphanage… For the last eight years, he has been taught to speak, has learned human ways – and as he began to utter his first words, it was discovered he had a fine singing voice… He has now joined the 20-strong Pearl of Africa children's choir…”*

Sue Nelson

*Read the full story on the BBC site at*

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/466616.stm